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INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Note by the secretariat

The present note contains the recommendations of the Advisory Group of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People adopted at its sixth session, held in Geneva from 2 to 5 April 2001, which were approved by the Coordinator of the Decade, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, on 10 April 2001.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY GROUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ADOPTED AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

Introduction

1. The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995, relating to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In accordance with resolution 48/163, the Secretary-General was requested to establish a voluntary fund for the Decade and was authorized "to accept and administer voluntary contributions from Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and other private institutions and individuals for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade".

2. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 50/157, the Coordinator of the Decade, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, should "encourage the development of projects and programmes, in collaboration with Governments and taking into account the views of indigenous people and the appropriate United Nations agencies, for support by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade".

3. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157 on the Programme of Activities for the International Decade, an Advisory Group was created in April 1996, to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund.

4. The Advisory Group is composed of Mr. Michael Dodson (Chairperson), Ms. Naomi N. Kipuri, Mr. José Carlos Morales, Ms. Tove Søvndahl Petersen and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, who are also members of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, as well as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, and Mr. José Luis Goméz del Prado, appointed by the Coordinator of the Decade.

I. SIXTH SESSION OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

5. At its sixth session, held from 2 to 5 April 2001 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, the Advisory Group held eight private meetings. It adopted its agenda and timetable at its first meeting and it briefly met with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights in the absence of the High Commissioner, as well as with other OHCHR officials, to exchange views and information relevant to the mandate of the Advisory Group and Fund.

A. Implementation of previous recommendations

6. The Group noted with satisfaction that most of the recommendations adopted at its previous session had been approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General and implemented by the Secretariat (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/3, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/24, chap. VI and VII; A/55/268, paras. 12-19; E/CN.4/2001/84, paras. 13-20).

7. Among these recommendations were: that, taking into consideration the ever-increasing number of applications for project grants which had to be analysed, the Advisory Group's session should be extended from two to four days; that it should be scheduled prior to the consideration by the Commission on Human Rights of the agenda item on indigenous populations; that the presentation of the financial situation of the Fund to the Commission on Human Rights by its Chairperson or a member shall be discussed under the relevant agenda item of the sixth session; and that its secretariat should consult with the secretariat of the Commission in advance of its next session to arrange a suitable date for this presentation.

1. Grants to projects proposed by indigenous organizations and communities

8. The Advisory Group reviewed narrative and financial reports received from project leaders on grants approved from 1997 to 2000.

2. Workshops and seminars

9. The Advisory Group reviewed workshops, seminars and projects for which it had recommended financial assistance at its fifth session. These were the Workshop on Indigenous Media; a subregional Workshop on Peaceful and Constructive Group Accommodation in Situations Involving Minorities and Indigenous People held in Kidal, Mali; a second Workshop on Indigenous Children and Youth in Geneva; and the United Nations manual on indigenous peoples. The Advisory Group also reviewed workshops and seminars organized with the financial assistance of the Fund since 1997.

10. The Advisory Group also considered those proposals for workshops and seminars that it could not examine at its fifth session owing to insufficient time, including a workshop on indigenous peoples, human rights and the private sector and a training seminar on human rights and capacity-building at the country level.

B. Financial situation of the Fund

11. The Advisory Group reviewed the financial situation of the Fund and all relevant information available at OHCHR, including the list of contributions paid or pledged available at the sixth session (see annex I), which showed enough money available to finance, in accordance with the Cost Plan for 2001, new project grants as well as new proposals made by the Indigenous Project Team for workshops and seminars to be held in 2001. About US$ 600,000 were available, thanks to new voluntary contributions made since the fifth session by regular and new donors, including Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden, which had been officially recorded by the

United Nations Treasurer. Provisions for programme support costs (13 per cent) and the operating cash reserve (15 per cent) were also taken into consideration, in accordance with the relevant United Nations financial rules.

C. Recommendations for 2001 for programmes under the International Decade

1. Recommendations on project grants to indigenous organizations and communities

(a) Review of reports received on grants approved from 1997 to 2000

12. The Advisory Group expressed satisfaction with the number of grants approved since 1997, amounting to 66. The Advisory Group also expressed satisfaction with the fact that many grants disbursed in 1997, 1998 and 1999 had been well spent, and recommended that its secretariat continue to ask for information on other grants that still required additional reporting.

13. The Advisory Group underlined that, by and large, the financial and narrative reports received by its secretariat on the use of previous grants had met all reporting obligations. In a few instances, however, reporting had not been adequate for reasons that included delays in payment, difficulties concerning communications, lack of infrastructure and banking problems.

14. In evaluating the use of project grants during the sixth session, members of the Advisory Group contacted project leaders directly to request information that was lacking.

15. As a follow-up to its evaluation of information received on the grants approved from 1997 to 2000, the Advisory Group adopted new guidelines.

16. In the cases where the reporting was not satisfactorily completed, the member appointed for the geographical region concerned should, during the inter-sessional period, try to contact the organization to obtain the missing information (acknowledgement of receipt of the grant, information on remaining balance, satisfactory narrative and financial reports, etc.); the relevant member will inform the secretariat of the Fund during the inter-sessional period and the Advisory Group at its next session about any information received; if no satisfactory information has been obtained, the Advisory Group at its next session might wish to recommend to the secretariat of the Fund to ask for refund of the grant.

17. If possible, members should visit and evaluate projects within their geographical area when no extra cost is involved. At the request of a member, the secretariat should inform the organization concerned that such a visit might take place.

18. The secretariat of the Fund should send reminders to those project leaders who have still not submitted satisfactory narrative or financial reports and ask them to submit final narrative and financial reports or any other information needed before 30 September 2001, for consideration by the Group at its next session.

19. The Advisory Group adopted a guideline confirming its practice according to which its members should not submit an application to the Fund to finance a project of an organization in which they have an executive function, in order not to have a conflict of interest.

(b) Consideration of new applications for 2001

20. The Advisory Group was informed that, in accordance with the Cost Plan of the Fund for 2001, and thanks to voluntary contributions paid by regular and new donors to the Fund, according to information available at OHCHR sufficient funding was available for allocation to project grants at its sixth session (see para. 11 above and annex I).

21. The Group examined 82 applications for project grants received within the deadline, in the light of the criteria for the selection of projects and other relevant guidelines (annex II). The organizations which had submitted applications after the deadline or outside the mandate of the Fund had been informed accordingly by the secretariat.

22. The Advisory Group recommended for approval by the Secretary-General a list of 30 project grants, (annex III), for a total of about US$ 252,000.

23. The Advisory Group recommended that in the letter from the secretariat informing the project leader that a grant had been approved, it should be stated that the organization should confirm its agreement to submit a copy of any concrete result of the grant (i.e. publications, Web sites, databases, etc.).

24. The secretariat of the Fund should continue to reply to all applicants whose projects were not recommended for a grant. The project leaders should be advised to contact, for fund-raising purposes, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the field, as well as relevant bilateral governmental agencies working in their country.

25. New guidelines for project leaders on reporting obligations should be drafted by the secretariat and attached to the application forms for 2002. Among these guidelines there should be a provision indicating that, in case of unexpected changes in a project proposal that had already been approved, the project leader should submit such change for approval by the secretariat before any expenditure is made.

26. At the next session of the Advisory Group the secretariat should indicate - in the charts showing reporting on project grants - the date on which the receipt of the grant was acknowledged.

27. Applications and subsequent correspondence received by the secretariat of the Advisory Group should be considered as confidential. Only the Advisory Group members and its secretariat shall have access to these files.

2. Recommendations on workshops and seminars to be held in 2001

28. Upon recommendation of the Advisory Group, about US$ 150,000 were allocated to the following programmes to be implemented by the Indigenous Project Team of the Research and Right to Development Branch of OHCHR.

(a) Workshop on indigenous peoples, private sector, natural resource, energy and mining companies, and human rights

29. The Advisory Group recommended US$ 47,000 for the organization of a workshop on indigenous peoples, private sector, natural resource, energy and mining companies, and human rights.

(b) Round table on indigenous peoples, racism and the media

30. The Advisory Group recommended US$ 50,400 for the organization of a round table on indigenous peoples, racism and the media, to be held as a parallel activity to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in South Africa, in accordance with Sub-Commission resolution 2000/14.

(c) Human rights training in Mexico

31. The Advisory Group recommended US$ 40,000 for the travel and daily allowances of 30 indigenous participants to attend a human rights training seminar for indigenous peoples, to be organized in cooperation with the Mexico Desk of the Activities and Programmes Branch at OHCHR, as a component of a wider programme to promote human rights in Mexico.

(d) Human rights training for indigenous peoples

32. The Advisory Group recommended US$ 12,000 for the organization of a pilot human rights training course for indigenous communities in one country.

(e) General recommendations on workshops and seminars

33. The Advisory Group expressed the wish to be consulted in advance about the preparation of workshops, seminars and meetings to be financed by the Fund, including about the selection of indigenous experts to attend such events.

34. The Advisory Group recommended that workshops and seminars should be refocused so as to be more in line with the programme of activities for the Decade, including activities suggested to the secretariat of the Fund by indigenous communities or organizations.

35. The Advisory Group would consider favourably at its next session a proposal for the holding of a workshop/seminar of indigenous peoples and Governments, in conjunction with the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

D. Fund raising

36. The Advisory Group met with representatives of the donor Governments of Austria, Finland, Guatemala, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Members of the Advisory Group also met informally with representatives of the Governments of Chile and Denmark. At the annual meeting of the Advisory Group with donors to the Fund, the Chairperson and the other members of the Group expressed their gratitude for the regular donors' generous contributions, and recommended a sustained effort and, if possible, an increase in the voluntary contributions. The Group encouraged even symbolic contributions by new donors as an expression of interest in funding projects and programmes during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

37. On the basis of the requests received and activities financed, the Advisory Group recommended that a total amount of US$ 1 million should be requested for the Fund in the OHCHR Annual Appeal for 2002.

38. As the Chairperson could not be in Geneva during the discussion by the Commission on Human Rights of the relevant agenda item, it was agreed that Ms. Søvndahl Petersen would make the presentation on behalf of the Advisory Group.

E. Emergency assistance grants for projects

39. The Advisory Group approved a new guideline, suggested at its fifth session, concerning emergency assistance for projects during the inter-sessional period according to which, on an exceptional basis, organizations can submit to the secretariat of the Fund a request for emergency assistance for programmes which were already subsidized by the Fund but which had encountered financial difficulties. Requests for funding amounting to up to US$ 5,000 will be examined by the Chairperson of the Advisory Group, who will make a recommendation to the secretariat of the Fund and report to the Advisory Group at its next session.

F. Database on indigenous organizations

40. The programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (General Assembly resolution 50/157, annex) stipulates in its paragraph 19 that the Coordinator shall establish an "information programme linking the Coordinator of the Decade to focal points of the United Nations system, national committees for the Decade and, through appropriate channels, indigenous networks; also develop a database of indigenous organizations and other relevant information, in cooperation with indigenous people, Governments, academic institutions and other relevant bodies". The Advisory Group brought to the attention of the Coordinator of the Decade the fact that this important activity had not been given enough attention in the United Nations. After more than seven years into the Decade, this particular activity is still at its inception. The Advisory Group, therefore, recommended to the Coordinator that priority be given to the development of this information programme, which is of particular importance for indigenous peoples. It would consider favourably providing advice, at its next session, on any relevant project that might be submitted for its consideration by the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team.

Annex I

CHART OF NEW CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES

The following new contributions were received after the fifth session (11 April 2000), according to information available at OHCHR as at 23 March 2001, and were therefore available at the sixth session:

Donors	Amount in US$	Paid on	Paid in
Chile	5 000	23 April 2001	New York
Colombia	1 000	29 December 2000	New York
Cyprus	2 996	29 December 2000	
Denmark	129 381	11 April 2000	Geneva
	119 127	6 April 2001	"
Estonia	17 760	2 January 2001	
Germany	21 599	7 December 2000	Geneva
Greece	3 000	9 February 2001	Geneva
Japan	25 000	9 June 2000	New York
Netherlands	98 366	12 January 2001	New York
New Zealand	11 807	12 April 2000	Geneva
Norway	53 631	30 November 2000	Geneva
	55 163	28 March 2001	"
Sweden	33 208	30 May 2000	Geneva
Total	577 038		

The following pledges were registered as at 23 March 2001:

Donor	Amount in US$	Local currency	Pledged on	Pledged in
Canada	9 800	15 000	20 March 2001	Geneva
Chile	5 000		27 November 2000	New York
Tunisia	951		4-5 November 1998	New York
Movement for Defence of Democracy	200	Cedis 1.4m	6 October 2000	Ghana
Total	15 951			

Annex II

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PROJECTS AND OTHER RELEVANT GUIDELINES

Objectives of the Fund

- To support the Programme of Activities adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/157

- To provide assistance to projects and programmes advancing the goal of the International Decade: international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, culture and health

Who can apply

- Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic and other similar institutions; organizations should be non-profit-making

- National committees for the Decade

- The organization submitting the project for funding should have the capacity to raise needed additional money from other sources

Main project areas

- The Programme of Activities and objectives of the Decade as well as the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as they relate to indigenous people

- Indigenous organizational structures and procedures and their strengthening through education, training and institution and capacity-building, bearing in mind the need to respect their relevant traditions

- Education and training in human and indigenous rights

- Information about indigenous peoples and the Decade

- Communications and exchanges between the United Nations system and indigenous peoples and between indigenous peoples

- Fund-raising initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Decade

Criteria for selection

- Projects should be of direct benefit to indigenous people in all parts of the world
- Projects should be prepared by or in full support and consultation with indigenous people
- Projects will be considered taking into account gender balance
- Particular consideration will be given to projects from underdeveloped areas in different regions
- Projects will be approved in relevant areas including in particular those relating to the promotion, protection and implementation of human and indigenous rights

Deadline and consideration of projects

- Projects should be sent to the secretariat of the Fund before 1 October
- Complete application forms must be duly filled-in in English, French or Spanish, dated and signed by the project leader
- Applications to the Fund will be considered at the annual session of the Advisory Group in March/April of each year

Grants by the Fund

- Grants by the Fund will not exceed US$ 50,000

ANNEX III

LIST OF PROJECT GRANTS APPROVED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
AFRICA			
Unissons-nous pour la promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA)	A. Promotion of Batwa people through education B. Seminar for human rights sensitization	Burundi/Batwa	A. 4 000 B. 4 000
Centre d'accompagnement des ménages vulnerables et autochtones minoritaires (CAMV)	Production of an information leaflet for the communication and information on the life of Pygmies in the region	Democratic Republic of Congo/Pygmies	8 000
Ogiek rural integral projects (ORIP)	Ogiek grass-roots capacity-building and empowerment project encompassing different areas of concern (environment, female genital mutilation, youth awareness, etc.)	Kenya/Ogiek	8 000
Manyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization	Land-rights advocacy in Kajiado District. The project aims at slowing, stopping and reversing the process of land loss to which the Maasai are being subjected (through lobbying, advocacy, training and strengthening of organizational structure)	Kenya/Maasai	8 000
Pastoralists Community Development Organization (PACODEO)	Education and training of Waata in human and indigenous rights	Kenya/Waata	8 000

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
African Indigenous and Minority People Organization (AIMPO)	Organizational capacity-building and international human rights standards awareness The project aims at alleviating illiteracy amongst members of the Batwa community, developing human rights awareness, promoting community self-understanding, and introducing gender and human rights issues to members of the community. This will happen through the teaching and training of 80 indigenous persons who will subsequently teach and train other members of the community	Rwanda/Batwa	8 000
Rwenzori Mountains Development Association	Community-based life-improvement project	Uganda/Bayira	8 000
Tanzania Compassion Society	Support for the Barabaig community's land rights struggle To be achieved through legal action, awareness-raising lobbying, networking and information-sharing	United Republic of Tanzania/Barabaig	8 000
Parakuiyo Community	Community-based natural resources management	United Republic of Tanzania/Parakuiyo indigenous pastoralists	8 000
Total grants: 9			**US$ 72 000**

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
ASIA			
TRINAMUL	Textbook production in indigenous languages for the children and training workshop for traditional leaders of indigenous Jumma people	Bangladesh/Jumma	8 000
Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (AITPN)	Capacity-building programmes for indigenous peoples in north-east India	India/various indigenous and tribal peoples	5 000
Society for Integrated Development of Tribals (SIDT)	The socio-economic and political conditions of tribals - a study Book with information and statistics on Palians and Pulayans	India/Palians and Pulayans	1 697
Samata - Centre for Advocacy and Support	Create an indigenous rights group through capacity-building exercises and education and training programmes on human and indigenous rights for communities residing in forest areas of Andhra Pradesh The project aims at empowering indigenous people in Andhra Pradesh to exercise their rights and sustain their culture, lifestyle and traditions	India/indigenous peoples of Andhra Pradesh (Khonds, Konda, Reddys, Bagatas, Nooka, Doras, Konda Kammara)	8 000

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
Mining Advocacy Network	Increasing public support for indigenous communities against the mining industry The project aims at raising public awareness on the impact of the mining industry on indigenous people	Indonesia/Dayak Siang, Kelian, Murung, Bekumpai	8 000
Kirat Yakthung Chumlung	Legal literacy in indigenous and human rights Development of materials on indigenous peoples and human rights; organizing training of trainers; organizing and carrying out legal literacy courses in 11 districts	Nepal/Limbu	8 000
Total grants: 6			**US$ 38 697**
	AMERICAS		
Movimiento Indio Tupaj Amaru	Construction of silos for water storage in the Crúz Pata and Compañia areas The project aims at constructing 53 water silos for around 250 members of Quechua communities living in a dry area. One element of the project is to involve women and children in the planning/execution of project	Bolivia/Quechua	10 000

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
Organización de Mujeres Aymaras del Kollasuyo (OMAK)	Training of 32 female village counsellors of 8 rural municipalities and 16 female Aymara leaders of OMAK centres	Bolivia/Aymara	8 996
Taller de Historia Oral Andina (THOA)	Training on indigenous rights for Aymara and Quechua children and youth	Bolivia/Aymara, Quechua	10 000
Ojibwe Cultural Foundation	Kina Gawiidokdaadmin Wiignowendmang O'Anishinabe Enjigchitwanwchiged GeEnji gnowendanGitchitwanwchigaansan - A manual for Anishimabek communities The project aims at the development of a "Principal, step-by-step manual" on the protection and care of sacred places and sacred items	Canada/Ojibwe, Odawa, Pottawatomi	10 000
Organización de Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonia Colombiana (OPIAC)	Programme for permanent training in human rights, for ethnic-cultural integration and the defence and conservation of the environment of the Colombian Amazon	Colombia/several indigenous communities, amongst them Andoque,Barasana, Bora, Cabiyari, Carabayo	10 000
CABECAR (Asociación de Mujeres Cabécar de Ujarrás de Buenos Aires de Puntarenas)	Awareness and strengthening of the identity of an ethnic group (project A)	Costa Rica/Cabécar	10 000
Comité de Solidaridad Triqui en el área metropolitana	Derecho consuetudinario (customary law) of the Triqui in Oaxaca State	Mexico/Triqui	7 138

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
Ireta P'Orheecheri Equipo Pueblo Purhépecha (IP'EPPAC)	Literacy instruction of Purhépechas indigenous people with women's rights topics and topics related to indigenous rights The project aims at addressing the serious illiteracy rate amongst the target group, whilst simultaneously heightening the group's awareness of indigenous and women's rights issues	Mexico/Purhépecha	10 000
Sociedad de Solidaridad Social y Resonsabilidad Ilimitada	Coox Natic Tu-laka Má-lob T'han (Let us learn all the good news)	Mexico/Maya Quinchil	10 000
Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna	Cultural and social exchange between youth	Panama/Kuna	10 000
Coordinadora de la Juventud Indígena Nivaclé	Training courses for coordinators of the organization to enhance the structure and preparedness of the organization and its members	Paraguay/Nivaclé	10 000
Yachay Wasi	The project aims at establishing a training centre for rural development "Yachay Wasi"	Peru/Quechua	10 000

Organization	Title of project	Country/ indigenous community	Amount recommended in US$
Fundación Tampa Allqo	The project aims at fomenting cultural awareness amongst indigenous youth and includes an audiovisual club; the printing of an Asháninka language book; folk dance and theatre classes; the holding of a Quechua literary competition and a folklore afternoon	Peru/indigenous youth (Colcabamba, Wancas, Ashaninkas)	5 775
Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazónicas del Perú (CONAP)	Amazonian indigenous democracy and development The project aims at increasing human rights awareness, capacity-building, launching of awareness campaigns and promotion of increased participation in local government	Peru/Amazonian indigenous peoples	10 000
International Indian Treaty Council	International human rights mentorship and leadership development training programme for indigenous youth	United States of America/indigenous youth from the Anishinabek Aymara	10 000
Total grants: 15			**US$ 141 909**

Total number of project grants: 30

Total amount in US$: 252 606